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This Week's Forums: Page 26

EDUCATION WEEK

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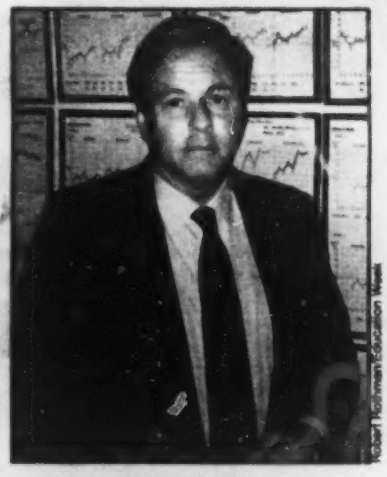
High-Stakes Testing

A District Ties Goals to Scores



Robert Rothman/Education Week

Superintendent John A. Murphy in chart-laden "applied anxiety" room.

A two-part look at the policy focus on standardized testing. This week, one district's unusually keen interest.

By Robert Rothman

UPPER MARLBORO, MD.—Whenever John A. Murphy wants to see how any school in his district is performing on standardized tests, all he has to do is walk into the conference room adjoining his office.

There, the superintendent of the Prince George's County, Md., school district has replaced the student artwork that adorned the walls when he took office five years ago with charts showing each school's test scores.

The room—known as the "applied anxiety" room—has become a powerful symbol of Mr. Murphy's intention to

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Teaching Board's Policy Papers Hint Vision for National Exams

By Lynn Olson

Three draft policy positions from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards provide a vision of teaching that goes far beyond that typically embraced by the public and a first glimpse of the understandings that will guide the board's work.

The unpublished positions—along with their accompanying support statements—now are being circulated for review and comment among members of the education community. The draft policy positions were adopted by the board Jan. 14 and are expected to receive final approval at its April meeting.

If adopted, they would govern the development of the new, national certificates that the board hopes to begin issuing in 1993.

The documents, obtained by *Education Week*, leave unanswered many of the more controversial questions facing the fledgling organization. These include whether potential board candidates must have graduated from a teacher-education program, particularly one that is nationally or regionally accredited, and how many years of experience board candidates are expected to possess before they can sit for the exams.

The longest of the three papers, "What Teachers Should Know and Be Able to Do," outlines the general traits that board members value in a teacher. The other two papers address the principles the board will consider in designing its assessments and the areas of education policy on which it plans to focus.

These include: creating a more effective environment for teaching and learning in schools; increasing the supply of high-quality entrants into the profession, with a special emphasis on minority candidates; and

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'Sensitive' Posts Targeted by E.D. For Drug Testing

By Julie A. Miller

WASHINGTON—The Education Department has announced plans to subject about 200 of its employees to random drug testing.

But the union that represents about half the department's workers has indicated it will ask the courts to block the testing program.

The department's plan "is designed to deter illegal drug use and to assist in the rehabilitation of drug-using employees," Secretary of Education Lauro F. Cavazos said in his official notice to employees. "Our intent is to offer assistance to those who need it, while sending a clear message that illegal drug use is incompatible with employment in the Department of Education."

The "testing pool" of "sensitive positions" whose incumbents are subject to random testing ranges from Presidential appointees to data processors and chauffeurs.

The plan also calls for testing employees suspected of drug use, as well as those who have been involved in on-the-job accidents or are applicants for "sensitive" jobs.

The department estimates that the program will cost $35,000 in 1989 and as much as $75,000 in 1990, according to Mahlon Anderson, spokesman for Mr. Cavazos.

"We are totally against it," said Maryann Nelson, president of the chapter of the American Federation of Government Employees at the department. "It's a blatant violation of our rights, and there's not even any evidence that there's a problem."

Patrick Pizzella, deputy undersecretary for management, agreed with Ms. Nelson that there probably are not many drug users in the agency.

"We don't think we have an employee

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As Bans Widen, U.S. Agencies Say Apples Pose Little Threat to Young

By Ellen Flax

WASHINGTON—Saying a chemical used by some apple growers poses no "imminent hazard" to children, three federal agencies last week called on schools to continue serving apples in their lunch programs.

The statement, issued by the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Food and Drug Administration, came almost two weeks after some of the nation's largest school districts began pulling apples from their lunch menus and consumers began to boycott apples. The action by last week had also spread to many smaller districts.

"The F.D.A., E.P.A. and the U.S. Department of Agriculture believe there is not an imminent hazard posed to children in the consumption of apples at this time, despite claims to the contrary," the joint statement issued last Thursday reads.

"Therefore, the federal government encourages school systems and others responsible for the diets of children to continue to serve apples and other nutritious fruit to American children."

Concern among parents and educators had been fueled by a report issued by an

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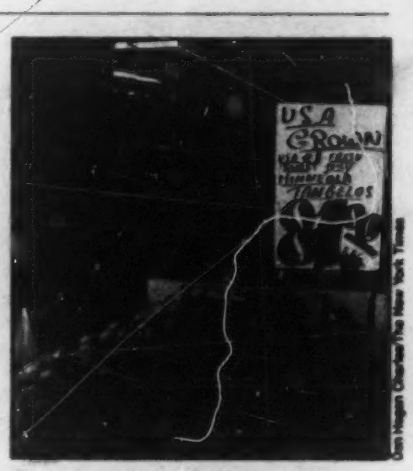

Dan Hagan Charles Fox/The New York Times

Customers selecting fruit at a produce store in New York City last week.

Scientists, Creationists Each Claim Victory in Texas Evolution Vote

By Robert Rothman

The Texas Board of Education last week adopted a controversial rule that would, for the first time, require publishers to include discussions of evolution in biology textbooks.

But in a move that pleased supporters of creationism, the board also amended the guidelines to mandate instruction in other "reliable" theories as well.

"We're very happy with what the board did," said Mel Gabler, a long-time anti-evolution textbook critic and activist.

"If it is observed," he said of the rule, "we'll see an entirely different type of teaching of evolution. For every argument for it, there will be an argument counter to the theory. That has been censored from students for a long time."

Eugenie C. Scott, executive director of the National Center for Science Education Inc., a California-based group that defends the teaching of evolution, said the board's action sends a "confused" signal to publishers, particularly in light of a recent policy on the subject adopted in California.

In January, the California Board of Education issued a policy statement urging teachers to reject "dogma" and restrict their teaching to "observable facts and testable hypotheses."

"Publishers are going to be confused," Ms. Scott said. "Here are the two biggest markets in the country. California is standing up strongly for scientific integrity. Texas takes one and a half steps forward and one step back."

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A major new curriculum guide stresses "doing" over "knowing."
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Education-school survey data show a third consecutive year of growth.
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Students with the paging devices could be assumed to be drug trafficking.
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Retackling Child Care
With one hurdle surmounted, Congress moves forward on legislative proposals.
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Los Angeles teachers have voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike, probably in June, even as the union struggles to resolve an internal dispute over bilingual education. **Page 4.**

Immigrant-Education Overload
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Eyes on Education
Schools are in the media spotlight, as PBS and NBC launch new education projects and the national high-school sports federation concludes a deal to televise games on cable TV. **Page 5.**

Rising Teacher Enrollments
A new survey shows enrollment in undergraduate teacher-education programs rising for the third year in a row, although the gains may be leveling off after a year of striking growth. **Page 7.**

Tarheel Tax Fight
A plan by the governor of North Carolina to increase the state sales tax in order to phase in a 6 percent salary increase for teachers has drawn opposition from his fellow Republicans. **Page 11.**

Perpich's Spending Woes
Minnesota eductors are attacking Gov. Rudy Perpich's budget, which would increase basic aid to school districts by only 1.6 percent next year, and not at all the following year. **Page 11.**

E.D. Officials Depart
Six Reagan-appointed Education Department officials, including the assistant secretaries for research and special education, have resigned, the department confirmed last week. **Page 16.**

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ACROSS THE NATION

STATES

Connecticut Supreme Court Upholds Certification Law

Connecticut's supreme court has upheld a 1986 law requiring teachers to renew their certification every five years, rather than retain it for life.

Passed as part of a package that also included increases in teacher salaries, the statute requires teachers to earn continuing-education credits in order to maintain their certification.

The state's two largest teachers' unions filed suit to block the new mandate. The unions argued that the law would violate teachers' constitutional rights to due process of law, since those who already held lifetime certificates would be required to surrender them in exchange for the new certificates.

In a unanimous decision written by Chief Justice Ellen A. Peters, however, the court denied that the law violated those rights.

"It was not arbitrary or irrational," the court ruled, "for the legislature to decide that its goal of enhancing the quality of the state's educational system as a whole required even teachers who had attained permanent status to continue to sharpen their educational skills."

Mark Waxenberg, president of the Connecticut Education Association, said his organization had no plans to pursue further action against the law. "The court has spoken," he said. "It's time to move on to other issues."

■ **Tougher admission standards for its public universities** have been approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

To be admitted to a state university, students will have to have four years of high-school English; three years each of social studies, mathematics, and laboratory sciences; and two years of foreign languages, music, or art.

However, the legislature is considering a proposal to delay the requirements until 1998, or until the board certifies that every high school in the state offers all the required courses. Backers of a delay argue that many high schools do not offer three years of laboratory science.

■ **Nearly 83,000 students in the 7th through 12th grades dropped out of Texas schools last year**, according to the state education department's first comprehensive survey of the dropout problem.

The preliminary report released this month showed that the 82,883 dropouts included 34,809 whites, 33,005 Hispanics, 13,614 blacks, 1,281 Asians, and 174 American Indians.

Houston, the largest district in the state, reported 12,702 dropouts. But Dallas, the second-largest, reported only 2,869—a disparity that prompted state officials to ask for a review of the Dallas figure. Dallas counted only verified dropouts, not students who may have transfered to other districts, explained Rodney Davis, a spokesman for the district.

A state law requires districts to reduce their dropout rates to no more than 5 percent over a 10-year period.

■ **Voters in Montpelier, Burlington, and more than a dozen other Vermont communities have rejected double-digit increases in school budgets.**

All told, however, some 83 percent of the 232 districts that voted on Town Meeting Day—the state's annual exercise in direct democracy—approved new school budgets.

School-budget defeats in some communities may have been due to public resentment over teacher strikes and pay raises of from 10 to 12 percent, observed W. Ross Brewer, director of planning and policy development for the state education department.

■ **Coloradans favor decentralization of the school bureaucracy and believe that schools should emphasize basic skills,** according to a poll conducted by the local media and a public-interest group.

The emphasis that the poll's 9,700 respondents placed on reading, writing, and calculating indicates that they "want the basics taught and taught well," according to an editorial in the *Rocky Mountain News*.

The paper sponsored SchoolVote, a special poll conducted last month, in conjunction with KUSA-TV of Denver and the Public Education Coalition.

DISTRICTS

Philadelphia Chosen Over Baltimore For A.A.A.S. 'Project 2061'

Philadelphia was selected to participate in the American Association for the Advancement of Science's education-reform project after Baltimore officials wavered over their intentions, the project's director said last week.

The selection brings to six the number of sites involved in the second phase of the A.A.A.S.'s Project 2061. During the next three years, teams of teachers in participating sites will work with scholars to design model curricula based on the group's recent report, "Science for All Americans."

The other sites are San Francisco; San Diego; San Antonio; McFarland, Wis.; and two rural counties in Georgia.

Seeking an Eastern city as well, association officials had contacted Baltimore, where scientists from local universities were eager to join the project. But Superintendent of Schools Richard C. Hunter replied that he was hesitant to provide substitutes for the teachers who would be involved in the curriculum-writing effort.

After weeks of negotiations, association officials chose instead to work with Philadelphia, where school leaders were more enthusiastic about participating, according to F. James Rutherford, the project's director.

Milwaukee Students' Transfer Bids Frequently Frustrated, Study Finds

A year-old desegregation agreement between the Milwaukee Public Schools and suburban school systems has failed to find places for many of the minority students who sought transfers, according to a new report on the plan.

Only 506 of the 2,300 requests for transfers from the city to the suburbs were granted for the current year, the report says. At the same time, an unspecified number of suburban slots that were held open for minorities under the plan went unfilled, it indicates.

The report by Milwaukee administrators did not speculate on the reasons for the relatively low number of successful transfers. But officials who oversee the plan said that the current selection process hinders matching students with the available seats.

In a separate report, city officials charged that some suburban districts are referring transferring students for special-needs evaluations at a higher rate than is warranted. A large percentage of the students who are referred are subsequently found ready for regular classwork, they noted.

The districts are currently negotiating a means of reducing the number of unnecessary referrals, Milwaukee officials said.

■ **Houston voters have approved a $300-million bond issue** enabling the school district to launch its first major renovation and repair program in 12 years.

Joel Richardson/The Washington Post

Bridget Smith, student representative on the District of Columbia school board, listened last week to witnesses at a hearing she organized on students' ideas for curbing a wave of school violence, including a January incident in which four students were wounded by gunfire. Also last week, Mayor Marion Barry announced that police would begin enforcing a citywide curfew on those under age 18.

The new bond effort is the first step in a 10-year, two-part project that eventually will cost $629 million. The bond issue, approved March 7, will finance 12 new elementary schools, 10 new classroom wings, and 2 new middle schools, as well as repairs on other facilities. The measure also allowed the district to restructure its existing debt.

■ **A 16-year-old student has been charged with murder as an adult in the shooting death of a 17-year-old student outside a Gary, Ind., high school.**

Jocelin Sims is accused of shooting Shannon Brown, a track-and-field athlete, in the head. The incident allegedly occurred outside the gymnasium at William A. Wirt High School, according to a police spokesman.

■ **The Pike County, Ky., school board must deduct union dues from the wages of employees who are members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters,** the state Court of Appeals has ruled.

A three-judge panel said the board intentionally discriminated against Teamsters members by refusing to collect their union dues, even though for many years it has collected dues from members of the Kentucky Education Association and other groups.

■ **A Roman Catholic high school in Minnesota has received a $5.3-million donation.**

The gift from the Hiawatha Educational Foundation appears to be the largest from a single source ever received by a parochial school, according to an official of the National Catholic Educational Association.

Cotter High School in Winona will use income from the gift to enhance academic programs and raise salaries of its 21 teachers by $7,000 over the next two years, according to Principal Thomas J. Borek.

Robert A. Kierlan, president and chairman of the locally based Fastenal Corporation, said the school was chosen because four of the five directors of the firm's philanthropic arm, including Mr. Kierlan, are Cotter graduates.

■ **Houston teachers should avoid touching students in any manner,** the city's teachers' union has cautioned.

The warning came in the wake of a number of abuse allegations and a request by the district's security department that teachers disarm students and break up fights.

Since the school year began, 16 teachers have been suspended because of student allegations of sexual and physical abuse, according to Gayle Fallon, president of the Houston Federation of Teachers.

Teachers' anger over the issue flared recently when the security department outlined how they should question students armed "with a verifiable weapon" and disarm them if possible.

Superintendent Joan Raymond subsequently rescinded the security department's instruction pending further review, according to a spokesman.

■ **All students, teachers, and staff members at Ascension Interparochial Catholic High School in Donaldsville, La., will be subject to random drug testing** beginning next fall.

The Rev. Sean Sheehy, the school system's superintendent, said students who test positive for drug use will have to agree to undergo treatment or counseling.

DIMENSIONS

Paying the Principal

For the seventh year in a row, in 1988 the average salary of public-school principals rose faster than the rate of inflation, statistics compiled by the National Association of Secondary School Principals indicate.

At $52,987, the average salary of high-school principals in the 1988-89 school year was 4.9 percent above the previous year's level, the group's annual pay survey found. The increase in the Consumer Price Index for 1988 was 4.1 percent, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Principals in junior-high/middle and elementary schools won similar raises, the survey showed.

NASSP officials hailed the ongoing increases as evidence of the growing stature of their profession. "This is clear indication that school boards and other citizens are seeing that the principal is the key player as communities try to improve their schools," said Paul W. Hersey, the group's director of professional assistance.

However, 1988 was not as good a year for principals as some in the recent past. In 1986, for example, high-school leaders received an average raise of more than 6 percent, while the C.P.I. rose only 1.9 percent.

The survey also showed that principals' raises varied considerably according to the size of the school system in which they worked. Elementary principals in districts with from 2,500 to 9,999 students earned an average raise of 6.5 percent, while those in the smallest systems received only 3.3 percent more.

Copies of "Salaries Paid Principals and Assistant Principals, 1988-89 School Year," (No. 1608902) are available for $2.00 each from NASSP Publication Sales, 1904 Association Dr., Reston, Va. 22091.

	All Systems	Percent Increase Over 1987-88	Enrollment of School System			
			300 - 2,499	2,500 - 9,999	10,000 - 24,999	25,000 +
Senior High	$52,987	4.9	$47,612	$54,892	$56,187	$35,991
Junior High/ Middle	49,427	5.0	45,742	50,529	50,606	50,911
Elementary	45,909	5.1	42,793	46,770	47,162	48,084

PEOPLE

■ The box-office success of "Lean on Me," the film based on **Joe Clark's** career as principal of Eastside High School, has brought a measure of entertainment-industry hoopla to Paterson, N.J. For members of the Paterson school board, though, the excitement has been a bit too much.

The board reprimanded Mr. Clark and suspended him with pay for five days last week for his role in organizing a school assembly that included a performance by nearly nude male dancers. The assembly was called to promote the new film.

According to press reports, Mr. Clark threatened to quit in response to the board's action.

But Robert Rosenberg, an attorney for the school board, said last week that Mr. Clark had "accepted" his suspension and would return to school this week. Mr. Clark was unavailable for comment.

■ **Mark D. Musick,** currently vice president of the Southern Regional Education Board, has been selected to become its president at the end of June.

Mr. Musick will replace Winfred L. Godwin, who is retiring after 28 years as head of the 15-state organization.

As director of state services and information, Mr. Musick wrote and edited numerous reports on such topics as education funding, student assessment, career ladders, and remedial education. He also directed the organization's pilot project with the National Assessment of Educational Progress, which served as a model for NAEP's forthcoming state-by-state assessment program.

■ **A. Dean Speicher,** superintendent of the Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation in Osceola, Ind., was scheduled to be installed as

A. Dean Speicher

president of the American Association of School Administrators at ceremonies held in South Bend, Ind., late last week.

Mr. Speicher, elected to the one-year post by members of the national organization, held the office of president-elect last year, and previously served a three-year term on the executive committee.

He has been superintendent of the Penn-Harris-Madison district since 1971.

Mr. Speicher chose "Leadership With Vision" as the theme of his presidency.

■ New York City schools may someday move to a year-round schedule in order to reduce overcrowding, **Chancellor Richard R. Green** has suggested.

Mr. Green said last week that he had authorized his staff to study the possibility of beginning a pilot year-round program in a city school next fall.

Crowding is a severe problem in the school system, the nation's largest. One Manhattan district is 4,500 seats short, for example. Many students have been forced to attend schools in other parts of the city because of a lack of space.

School officials noted a number of obstacles to changing the basic school calendar, though, including potential resistance from teachers and the problem of keeping classrooms cool in summer.

Convenient Profits

Some California high-school students and a giant corporation are hoping that their unusual partnership will bring profits—monetary or otherwise—to both.

Students at James Logan High School in Union City and Southland Corporation, the parent company of the 7-Eleven chain, have joined together to open an on-campus convenience store.

Logan's student government will reap all the financial profits, an estimated $18,000 a year, while 7-Eleven will have a training ground from which to recruit future employees.

The Logan store, which opened its doors last month, was begun by Maile Seney, a business teacher, with the help of Marlene Borloug, owner of a local 7-Eleven franchise. Once permission was secured from the school board and Southland, operation of the mini-store became a part of the curriculum for participants in the school's advanced business classes.

The 75 students in the program are responsible for every facet of the store's operation, from keeping the shelves stocked to handling all the necessary accounting, says Ms. Seney.

The company has donated employee uniforms, shelving units, and a neon sign. And it plans to offer its expertise on product selection, provide managerial training, and give interested students opportunities to open their own store franchises someday.

The partnership is "a win-win situation," according to Margaret Chabris, a Southland spokesman. The chain donates its expertise, she says, "and we, in turn, hope to get them excited about convenience-store retailing and have an opportunity to groom potential franchisees."

And hungry or hurried students also may gain from the project. During lunch hours and after school, they can purchase cosmetics, snacks, school supplies, newspapers, and flowers, while benefiting their own student government. —J.W.

RESEARCH AND REPORTS

Parents Found to Want More Help In Spreading Anti-Drug Message

Although parents believe they must play the central role in preventing their children from using alcohol and illegal drugs, they frequently feel they lack the skills and information to get their message across, a new study by the National PTA suggests.

The study was the first step in the organization's effort to develop a $1-million alcohol- and drug-prevention program with the G.T.E. Corporation. It was based on interviews with eight groups of parents of 4th- through 8th-grade students in four cities.

Many parents are uncomfortable talking about drugs, researchers found, and think they need more information about the substances' effects. Most also said they wanted videotapes and other materials on the issue.

■ **More than 300 programs providing services for teen parents and their children are described in a new directory** published by the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women.

The directory also lists key contacts on teen parenting and child-care programs for each state.

Copies of "Learning Together: A National Directory of Teen Parenting and Child Care Programs" are available for $20 each from the Publications Department, Wellesley College, Center for Research on Women, Wellesley, Mass. 02181.